



3518 Hiawatha Way Investigation Antelope, California

Fact Sheet

December 1999

DTSC Announces Preliminary Results of Investigation

INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in response to contacts from residents that hazardous substances might be present in and around homes, conducted an investigation which included sampling for various chemicals in a yard, garage, and indoor air at 3518 Hiawatha Way in Antelope, Sacramento County. DTSC also interviewed other residents in the neighborhood, conducted visual inspection of 10 additional homes, and is in the process of writing a report of its findings. However, due to community concerns over potential health impacts, DTSC is announcing preliminary results in this fact sheet, prior to completion of the final report.

NO IMMEDIATE HEALTH THREAT FOUND

DTSC has concluded that there is no immediate health risk from exposure to hazardous substances at 3518 Hiawatha Way based on the sampling conducted. Samples were taken from soil in September and October. Indoor air was also sampled and analyzed. The samples were analyzed for 60 chemicals. Extensive analysis indicates the presence of some chemicals at low levels, but not at levels which would pose any immediate health threat.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Why did DTSC conduct an investigation?

DTSC acted on a request for investigation from a resident. Concerns were also expressed that

the housing development may have been constructed on top of soil which was contaminated from disposal of hazardous substances. DTSC spoke with a number of residents, many of whom had complaints regarding construction of their homes, including leaking water lines, faulty heating and electrical, and sewer problems. The home at 3518 Hiawatha Way was the one which DTSC felt needed investigation for possible hazardous substance contamination, due primarily to observations of the presence of unknown liquids in the garage of the residence.

2. What chemicals were found and what does their presence mean?

Chemicals found at low levels included those commonly associated with gasoline (benzenes and xylenes) and others associated with solvents and degreasers. Some chemicals were detected at levels which warrant further investigation to determine possible sources. Based on preliminary results of one indoor air sample, concentrations of benzene, chloroform, and TCE were at levels which might pose an increase in health risks if persons were exposed over a lifetime. DTSC will further evaluate potential long term risks. A complete list of sample results will also be included in the final report and will be made available to all who request it.

3. Why were chemicals detected at all?

Many of the chemicals detected would be expected to be found in houses at the concentrations measured at 3518 Hiawatha,

especially in and around the garage of a house where emissions from cars (gasoline) and other stored household chemicals are found. However, other chemicals may have other sources or explanations. Again, these chemicals are not at levels posing an immediate health risk.

4. Does DTSC plan any further investigation?

DTSC believes additional investigation is warranted to better explain why some chemicals are being detected. Specifically, DTSC will attempt to determine if soil around the house at 3518 Hiawatha Way contains contamination which could be attributed to historical hazardous substance disposal or release, to a leaking sewer line, or to some other source or sources. To do this, DTSC will develop a sampling plan which will sample at deeper levels in the soil and around the sewer line.

5. Will DTSC sample at other houses on Hiawatha?

At this time DTSC will continue to focus its investigation on 3518 Hiawatha Way. If new information warrants additional sampling at other locations, affected residents will be informed immediately.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DTSC will continue to keep interested persons informed by fact sheets, phone, and other means, as information becomes available.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the following DTSC staff:

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